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Town of Aurora

## Memorandum

Community Services

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**Re:** SARC Gymnasium Addition – Project Update

**To:** Accessibility Advisory Committee

**From:** Lisa Warth, Manager, Recreation

**Date:** February 8, 2022

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### Recommendation

1. That the memorandum regarding the SARC Gymnasium Addition – Project Update be received; and
2. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee comments regarding the SARC Gymnasium Addition – Project Update be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

### Background

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2016), recommended the construction of an additional gymnasium for community use. Current gymnasium space is well used and offers programs for all ages and abilities. A new gymnasium would allow for the expansion of program offerings to the community in all areas of general programming such as fitness classes, children’s programs, preschool programs, summer day camp, sports programs, and leagues, special events such as fairs and trade shows, along with sport community use for game play, practice, small tournaments, dryland training and more.

This project also addresses the lack of multipurpose space and administration and customer service space and functionality in the facility.

This project was tabled during the 2021 capital project deliberations and included options for a single gymnasium and a double gymnasium. A budget of 8.2 M was approved at that time for the project which included a single gymnasium, multipurpose space and administration space.

## **Analysis**

CS&P Architects have been retained as the design consultants for this project. One of the first steps undertaken by the Consultants and staff was community consultation. Four sessions were held with potential user groups along with a written survey for those who could not attend a consultation session. Through these discussions, it was revealed that there was a strong desire from potential user groups for a double gymnasium.

A double gymnasium would allow for more practice play, competitive play and access for the community. A double gymnasium would also contribute to achieving the goals in the Sport Tourism strategy.

However, there are challenges with a double gymnasium with respect to site fit, and the proximity to environmentally sensitive wetlands and floodplain considerations. Parking and traffic may also be issue with respect to a double gymnasium. Several studies need to be completed to address and ascertain the extent of these issues.

At this time, staff are recommending the project proceed as a single gymnasium as it more closely aligns to the initial budget and is a better fit within the designated space.

As this project progresses, staff are seeking input from the committee on design features, amenities and potential uses/programming. The final design will of course, adhere to the Facility Accessibility Guidelines.

A short presentation will be shared during the meeting to outline the space and potential layout of the addition.